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Minutes of the 829A Provincial Council Meeting Conference Call, February 11, 2013

PRESENT: Fr. Tom Cassidy, provincial superior; Fr. Bill Pitcavage, Fr. Ed Kilianski, Fr. Byron Haaland, Fr. Jack Kurps and Br. Duane Lemke, councilors; Dn. David Nagel, treasurer; Fr. Terence Langley, provincial secretary; and Mary Gorski, minutes.

- I. Minutes – Councilors approved the minutes of the 829th council meeting with minor corrections.
- II. Local Superiors/Coordinators Meeting
 - A. Province Plan — Fr. Cassidy suggested that a review of the Province Plan be a part of the local superiors meeting. Each councilor will do an oral update on his section(s) of the plan. Mary Gorski will take notes so that there is a record of the updates.
 - B. Location — The meeting will take place in Room 200 at SHST. It is hoped that prayer can be in St. Joseph's Chapel. Fr. Langley will check to see that the chapel is available.
- III. Province Development Office — Fr. Cassidy asked that the entire council be present, either in person or by phone, for the meeting with Steve Koepke and Kory Christianson at 9 a.m. on February 20 and for a follow-up meeting beginning at 1:30 p.m. the same day.

Mary Gorski will take minutes at the meetings and send the councilors a reminder of the meetings prior to February 20.

Councilors and Fr. Cassidy will meet with Br. Frank Presto on Thursday, February 21. Mary Gorski will not be in the office that day so Fr. Langley will take minutes.
- VI. Election — The names for the province election ballot must be endorsed by the Provincial Council by February 28. Removal requests must be in by February 15.

The council will review and approve the names for the ballot following its meeting with Br. Presto on Thursday, February 21.

Minutes of the 830th Provincial Council Meeting Hales Corners, Wis., February 20, 2013

PRESENT: Fr. Tom Cassidy, provincial superior; Fr. Bill Pitcavage, Fr. Jack Kurps and Br. Duane Lemke, councilors; Dn. David Nagel, treasurer; Fr. Terence Langley, provincial secretary; Steve Koepke, director of development for Sacred Heart Southern Missions, Kory Christianson, director of development for St. Joseph's Indian School for discussion of the Province Development Office; and Mary Gorski, minutes.

A. Province Development Office

1. Update — In September, 2012, the Provincial Council organized a committee to review the operations of the Province Development Office. That committee gave

a written report, with recommendations, to the council. During their January meeting councilors requested that two members of the committee, Kory Christianson and Steve Koepke, revisit the office to get a sense of how it is addressing the committee's recommendations.

Mr. Christianson and Mr. Koepke met with the council to deliver their follow-up report.

2. Br. Frank Presto — The Provincial Council accepted Br. Frank Presto's resignation as director of the Province Development Office. The provincial treasurer's office will oversee the activities of the development office.
- B. Candidates for Provincial Election — The council voted to endorse the slate of candidates for the provincial election. Fr. Langley will forward the candidates to the General Curia for approval.

Minutes of the 831st Provincial Council Meeting **Hales Corners, Wis., March 14, 2013**

PRESENT: Fr. Tom Cassidy, provincial superior; Fr. Bill Pitcavage, Fr. Ed Kilianski, Fr. Byron Haaland, Fr. Jack Kurps and Br. Duane Lemke, councilors; Dn. David Nagel, treasurer; Fr. Terence Langley, provincial secretary; and Mary Gorski, minutes. Msgr. Ross Shecterle, president-rector of Sacred Heart School of Theology, joined the council for discussion about the seminary.

- I. Council check-in – Councilors took time to update each other on themselves, ministries and personal concerns. Items of note:
- Fr. Cassidy was in Italy for the European Superiors Meeting and found it to be very interesting. The focus was on the SCJs' future role in and impact on Europe. When he returned he took part in the CSM Region V meeting; he finds these gatherings to be very beneficial. Topics discussed included immigration and human trafficking.
 - Fr. Cassidy and Fr. Bernie Rosinski will attend the blessing of the first SCJ house in Vietnam in April.
 - Fr. Haaland gave a parish mission at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in New Berlin.
 - The community at Dehon House is doing well; Br. Mike Fette was with the community for a few days. Fr. Naglich broke his arm and Fr. Pitcavage has been assisting him, though Fr. Naglich is becoming more self-sufficient.
 - Fr. Kurps said that he took part in his second meeting with the SHST board and found it to be very good.
 - Fr. Kilianski said that Fr. Joseph Dinh's D.Min. defense was postponed; one of the people who was to be a part of it had to reschedule.
 - Fr. Quang Nguyen is visiting Indonesia to learn about possible teaching opportunities there.
 - Dn. Nagel talked about the transitions at the Province Development Office; he has been busy at the office serving as director. He also noted that the General Finance Commission meetings went very well.
- II. Finance
- A. Raymondville — The province received an offer on the SCJ property in Raymondville, Texas. The interested group, an organization that works with orphans of immigrants, has put down \$10,000 in earnest money. They have 45 days — until mid-April — to finalize their decision. If sold, the SCJs will have 30 days to vacate. The offering price is \$549,900 (same as asking price). Negotiations are going well.
 - B. Province Development Office — Br. Frank Presto resigned as director of the Province Development Office on February 21. Dn. Nagel has been serving as director of the office. He has reconfigured the organizational chart so that much of the office reports to Director of Development (Sid Liebenson). Mr. Liebenson has moved into the executive director's office. Human Resources, the Finance Department and the Development Director report to Dn. Nagel.

The office is looking at moving away from primarily devotional campaigns to project or theme-specific appeals.

A councilor asked about the new fund raising director, Mr. Liebenson. Dn. Nagel said that he seems capable in the field. It was suggested that when Mr. Liebenson goes to South Dakota for Mission Education that he spend a few extra days there to visit with the development team. He should also go to Mississippi.

Councilors were concerned about the amount of time the office is demanding of Dn. Nagel's schedule. He also has full time responsibilities as treasurer. He was invited to use the resources of the Mississippi and South Dakota development offices as needed, including support from personnel in these offices.

- C. Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake — There was a strong turn-out for an open house that was held on February 26 at SHML. Thirty-four applications were made for the new wing.

Construction is about a week behind schedule because of weather but a June finish date is still anticipated.

Holy Week services will be in the main chapel with both SCJs and the residents.

- D. General Finance Commission — Members of the commission met in Hales Corners February 26-28. There was a review of finances in the U.S. Province and Canada, funding requests from the General Aid Fund, and other general financial concerns. Dn. Nagel said that the meeting went very well.
- E. Taxes — The treasurer's office is working with the City of Franklin regarding some tax issues.
- F. SHST budget — The SHST Finance Committee met and approved a proposed budget for the seminary. The province grant remains at \$2.77 million as it was this year.

III. Concerns for next administration — Councilors talked about issues and concerns which will be of significance for the next provincial administration:

- A. Key positions — There are number of key positions in the province that if vacated, may be difficult to fill. Examples (not inclusive): director of Sacred Heart Southern Missions (currently it is Fr. Kurps), director of St. Joseph's Indian School (Fr. Stephen Huffstetter), pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Fr. Kilianski), director of SCJ spirituality at SHST (Fr. Haaland), novice master (Fr. John Czyzynski), formation director (Br. Lemke), and vocation director (Br. Ray Kozuch).

If SCJs are going to continue to serve in these positions individuals need to be identified and prepared.

However, it was also noted that preparation is not the only concern. The province is very limited in personnel. It is hard to have contingency plans for the loss of a key person in leadership when the numbers of SCJs who are available to fill such positions is limited.

During the discussion it was suggested that if a person cannot be found to serve as novice master that there is the option of sending future novices to the Philippines. This would expose young people to the internationality of the congregation.

- B. Developing a process for prioritizing ministries — It was noted that the province might benefit from a better process in deciding on its priorities in ministry. There will not be the personnel to continue operations as they are now. How does the province decide what ministries continue, which ones change (perhaps moving under lay leadership) and which ones the province might no longer maintain?

The decision to stay or leave a ministry cannot be based simply on personnel availability. There are many ramifications when leaving a major ministry.

- C. Province Development Office — How will the office look in the future? How will present concerns continue to be addressed?
- D. Maintaining the Dehonian charism — How will the province continue to make the Dehonian charism known in its ministries with fewer SCJs present in them? Should there be someone on the province level — SCJ or lay — doing what Fr. Haaland does at SHST? Perhaps a former SCJ or long-time employee would be good in this role. It was noted that the Dehonian Family Ad Hoc Committee has had many ideas for enhancing awareness of the Dehonian charism but that all committee members have full-time jobs that don't allow for implementation of many of the ideas generated.

- E. Engaging younger SCJs — More needs to be done to engage younger members in the province. Their voices need to be heard. It is important that as many young SCJs as possible be at the September North American Conference. If they can't attend the full conference because of school, they should at least be at part of the conference even if it means missing a class.
- F. Incorporate visioning and reflecting at council level — The current administration attempted to do some visioning at the beginning of its term but eventually became more preoccupied with day-to-day business (and sometimes, emergencies) of the province. One way of involving the young SCJs in determining the direction of the province is to have visioning time during a council meeting at which younger members are invited to take part.
- G. Pinellas Park retirement community — Fr. Cassidy informed the community that after Br. Ben Humpfer leaves there might not be another SCJ to serve in leadership in Pinellas Park. This could mean that the men who are unable to relocate to SHML would need to look at a different living situation, perhaps assisted living.
- H. Intergenerational living — The province has a number of communities that are not only international but also intergenerational. What needs to be done to help members of these diverse communities live well together as religious?

IV. Administration

- A. Los Jóvenes — The February meeting with young SCJs was held at the formation community in Chicago. There was good dialogue; Fr. Cassidy said that he will suggest to the new administration that such meetings continue.

The young SCJs talked about religious life and the challenges of living it. Some of them said that they felt like they didn't have enough say in the direction of the province. There needs to be more of an effort in hearing the voices of young SCJs. However, young SCJs also have to be challenged to engage themselves in the concerns of the province.

At future meetings would it be good to include SCJs who are young with the community, though perhaps not young in years?

It would be good if a yearly date for the Los Jóvenes meeting is scheduled when the new administration sets up its council meeting schedule.

- B. Msgr. Ross Shecterle — The council invited Msgr. Shecterle to visit with them and talk about his first months as president-rector.
 - 1. Initial comments — Msgr. Shecterle said that he expected many more “bumps in the road” during his first months, especially since he is the first non-SCJ rector. However, things have gone very smoothly and he has developed a great love for the seminary. The competence of the staff is wonderful; he said that he finds himself “helping others to do their job well.” He does not need to have hands-on involvement in the minutia of operating the seminary.

Msgr. Shecterle said that he has appreciated working with Dn. Nagel and getting an understanding of the financial situation of the seminary.

As much as possible Msgr. Shecterle finds ways to connect with bishops to encourage them to either continue their relationship with SHST or to consider SHST in the future. When going to the ordination of an SHST graduate, Msgr. Shecterle (or another SHST representative) tries to meet briefly with the bishop to get his feedback on SHST and invite the bishop to identify ways in which the seminary can better prepare future seminarians. He has similar conversations with visiting vocation directors at SHST.

Msgr. Shecterle also has plans for informal breakfast meetings with bishops at future bishops' gatherings. He plans to have sponsoring bishops and non-sponsor bishops talk about SHST and the experience that sponsoring bishops have had with the seminary.

Immediate challenges include replacing key personnel. Several people who have been at SHST for many years are now retiring, including Fr. Tom Knoebel. Fr. Knoebel is vice rector, director of external affairs and director of recruitment. He also teaches. It is hoped that he can continue to serve the school in a limited capacity during his retirement. He has many contacts around the country and is an excellent resource in regards to recruitment and in relationships with spon-

soring dioceses and communities. Fr. Knoebel will take time to help transition new personnel into his current tasks.

Beginning July 1, Fr. Javier Bustos will be vice president of External Affairs, and Fr. Donald Loskot, SDS, will be vice president of Pastoral Formation. Msgr. Shecterle plans to wait to name a new vice rector.

SHST also needs to fill positions on the faculty and in formation. Besides encouraging bishops to send their seminarians to SHST he is also encouraging them to send some of their best men to teach at the seminary. It is hard for a bishop to let one of his most gifted priests leave the diocese for a period of time but such people are key in the formation of new priests.

2. Questions/dialogue — Councilors had a short Q&A with Msgr. Shecterle. Comments (paraphrased):
 - Msgr. Shecterle said that he was surprised that he didn't need to be as "hands on" involved in the daily operation of the seminary. In Louvain he did not have the staff that he has here and did everything from administrative work to janitorial service.
 - Msgr. Shecterle said that it has been interesting to see that seminarians in their 20s and in their 40s and 50s still have many of the same dynamics.
 - When asked about the facilities, Msgr. Shecterle said that basically he is pleased that the building is in good shape and credits the staff and the province for maintaining it. However, updates will be needed in the future. The seminary has put together a master plan. The first phase includes updating classroom furniture.
 - Could SHST plug into SHML? Perhaps the seminary could offer a course to the residents at SHML? Or, could they be invited to some school functions?
 - Meetings between the rector-president and the council should be a regular part of the council schedule. Perhaps Msgr. Shecterle could visit with the council once per semester. He suggested that he meet more often with the provincial superior to maintain good dialogue between SHST and the province.
 - It is important to have at least some priests living on campus. When possible, future priest faculty will be asked to live at the seminary. This will not be mandated (for instance, religious priests will expect to live with their own communities) but it will be strongly encouraged. It was noted that Fr. Bustos is moving onto the campus. Having priests on campus is not only an important expectation of bishops, but it also helps to maintain support for the priests who are there.

3. Thank you — Msgr. Shecterle was thanked by the council for his work and enthusiasm for SHST.

- C. Election Assembly — Fr. Langley updated the council on preparations for the election assembly. The names of potential candidates have been sent to the general curia. Fr. Langley will forward them to the membership as soon as he gets the final list. Fr. Jim Casper, moderator, will meet with Fr. Terry in April to prepare for the meeting.

Requests for proxy votes will need to be made, in writing, by April 15. The membership will be informed of this.

Councilors finalized a few of the schedule items: the assembly will begin at noon on Monday, June 3. On the following days morning prayer will be at 8:30 a.m. and Mass will be at 4:45. Fr. Kurps will organize the liturgies.

- D. Community Review Board — Fr. Cassidy reported that the new board is operating well. Ramune Franitza is doing an excellent job administering it. The board still needs six more members to meet the hoped-for number of 21.
- E. North American Conference — Fr. Kurps reported that the planning committee for the September conference, the concluding moment of the general visitation, met February 25-26 in Hales Corners. Committee members: Fr. Kurps, Fr. Maurice Légaré, Fr. Peter McKenna, Fr. Jim Schroeder, Fr. Bob Tucker and Fr. John van den Hengel. Sr. Cathy Bertrand is working with the committee in her role as facilitator.

The conference will begin Tuesday, September 24, with prayer at 4:30. It will end with lunch on Friday, September 27. On March 14 an e-blast went to SCJs in North America with basic information about the conference. More information will be sent to SCJs in a similar format in the future. Mary Gorski is preparing these.

The conference will most likely take place in Hales Corners. However, because school will be in session at SHST, there will not be room for all SCJs. Some can stay at SHST and SHML, but some will need to stay at hotels if the conference is in Hales Corners. If this is the case efforts will be made to make an environment in each location that connects people to the conference and each other.

The theme of the conference is “Dehonians in North America: celebration, reflection, action.” It translates similarly in French and English.

- F. ESL Program — Details are being worked out for the summer ESL program. Room will be available for non-SCJ students once there is a sense of how many SCJs are taking part.
- V. Next meeting — The council will next meet by conference call on Wednesday, March 20 at 1 p.m. central to approve these minutes.

CALENDAR

April 8-9: Mission Education Conference, St. Joseph's Indian School
April 30 – May 1: Provincial Council Meeting (budgets)
Week of June 3: Province Election Assembly
August 1: Installation of new administration
September: Fr. General's visitation to North America
September 23: Province Jubilee Celebrations
September 24-27: North American Conference, Hales Corners

2014:

July 7-11 Provincial Chapter

UPDATES

BR. MIKE FETTE will be at the Lebh Shomea House of Prayer for the next few months. His contact information:

La Parra Ranch
P.O. Box 9
Sarita, Texas 78385-0009
E-mail: mfettescj@yahoo.com

FR. JOSEPH DINH has a new email address: jtdscj@gmail.com

NECROLOGY

FR. THEODOR LINNEWERTH, a member of the German Province died February 13. He was born in 1932, professed in 1955 and ordained in 1960.